

**ABSTRACT****REDUCING NUMBER OF MESSAGES PROCESSED BY CONTROL  
PROCESSOR BY BUNDLING CONTROL AND DATA MESSAGES AND  
OFFLOADING THE TCP CONNECTION SETUP AND TERMINATION**5                   **MESSAGES**

A method, computer program product and system for reducing the number of messages to be processed by a control processor in a load balancer. A network processor instead of the control processor in the load balancer may establish and terminate a TCP connection between a client and the load balancer and between the 10 load balancer and a server. Further, messages, e.g., data and control messages, may be bundled into a single message to be transmitted between the network processor and the control processor. By bundling messages into a single message as well as offloading the establishment and termination of TCP connections to the network processor instead of the control processor, the number of messages to be processed by 15 the control processor is reduced. Consequently, the performance of the load balancer is improved.